



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on the Armenian Elections

As delivered by Ambassador Julie Finley
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
May 17, 2007

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The United States congratulates the Government of Armenia and the people of Armenia on the parliamentary election of May 12th. Improvements in technical and legal structures were effective and the process was more successful than in previous elections. The United States was indeed gratified by the partnership we shared with government and non-government structures in Armenia to support these improvements. We remain committed to working with Armenia in the future, both bilaterally and through the OSCE.

We welcome the joint statement of the delegations of ODIHR and the Parliamentary Assembly that reported on these elections. The judgment of the United States so far is that, despite some problems, this election represented an improvement in the implementation of international election standards.

Now that the election is past, there remain issues that ODIHR identified, including gaps in the regulatory framework for elections, inconsistencies and legal contradictions, and unresolved irregularities. There were instances of significant violations in at least a few places. Some of these irregularities could affect the outcomes of some contests. As allegations are brought forward, we will be watching for appropriate investigations by the authorities, and appropriate treatment under Armenia's laws of any irregularities that may have occurred.

We understand that there was excellent cooperation between ODIHR and the Parliamentary Assembly, and we look forward to a continuation of this. We also appreciate the work of the representatives of the European Parliament and Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly.

Looking ahead, the United States calls on Armenia to continue its efforts at election reform in advance of the Presidential election in 2008. The ODIHR final report will outline specific recommendations and we will work with Armenia in addressing them.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.